

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT
MEETING
April 8, 2015**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Maureen Buckley, Commissioner
Robert Ladd, Commissioner
Stephen LaBranche, Treasurer

Chairman Rage called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Keith Noyes (DPW Chief Retiring)

Chairman Rage welcomed Keith Noyes to the meeting.

Commissioner Ladd said the Village District is extremely appreciative of everything Mr. Noyes has done in his position as DPW Chief. The Department of Public Works did a wonderful job dealing with the snow removal this past winter. They definitely contributed towards public safety.

Chairman Rage said every time the Village District needed something, DPW was there.

Mr. Noyes said his experience working for the Town of Hampton has been great. This is a wonderful community and he enjoyed working with the Village District.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Noyes for his great work.

Gulf of Maine Charter and Recreational Fishing Association

Chairman Rage said there is a lot of concern about federal regulations affecting the fishing industry and recreational fishing.

Chris Muns said when he was a State Representative he received a letter regarding these regulations and did some research. The person who sent this letter was a recreational fisherman. Mr. Muns said any resident who wants to take a boat out on the water is subject to these new regulations. The Governor and NH Senators have asked for these regulations to be repealed.

Mr. Muns said no one could fish off the coast of New Hampshire since November 1st except for the months of December and February. There is a concern that these regulations may be made permanent in May. This affects charter operations and restaurants as well. They will suffer much lost revenue. Mr. Muns said there is support from the state legislative delegation.

The GOMCRFA (Gulf of Maine Charter and Recreational Fishing Association) was formed to support repeal of these regulations. There are 55 new members. The Association's website is GOMCRFA.com. for more information. The purpose of the Association is to spread the word and garner support. The Chamber of Commerce has been contacted.

Les Eastman, GOMCRFA, said the new rules and regulations are so complicated it is impossible to even explain them. These regulations are causing businesses to close. Ninety-nine percent of the NH legislature is behind repealing, but these are federal regulations.

Commissioner Buckley asked if they have given thought to having a meeting for business owners at the beach. Mr. Eastman said there will be a meeting held on Monday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Hampton Academy.

Mr. LaBranche asked who enforces these new regulations. Mr. Eastman said they are enforced by the Department of Fish & Game.

Commissioner Buckley said these regulations will have a negative effect on tourism. Chairman Rage said the Village District will work to get the word out.

Old Business

Commissioner Ladd congratulated the Village District for approving the new parking lot. He said this is going to be a jewel of an opportunity.

Chairman Rage said the Annual Meeting went well. He thanked Richard Reniere for doing a great job as Moderator and also thanked the Supervisors of the Checklist, Clerks and all who worked to make the meeting a success. Commissioner Ladd thanked the Fire Department for providing the venue for the meeting. Commissioner Buckley thanked the Boardwalk Café for providing food for the workers.

New Business

Commissioner Ladd said residents who live on streets on the west side of Ashworth, South Beach and the Island District will be receiving notification of a meeting about residential parking and have an opportunity for input. A similar meeting will be held for those on numbered streets on North Beach, Ancient Highway and Boars Head.

Chairman Rage said if anyone has issues that they want the Commissioners to address, to let them know. Also if someone is a resident of the Village District and does not live on any of those streets and has issues, they should contact the Town Manager who is open to including their concerns.

Chairman Rage discussed the process of getting the bond for the new parking lot. He has been talking to a local banker about a bond anticipation note and it may be possible to do it for under 3%.

Reorganization

Moved by Commissioner Buckley, seconded by Commissioner Ladd, to appoint Chuck Rage as Chairman of the Hampton Beach Village District for the coming year.

Vote: 2 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Rage). Motion passed

Moved by Commissioner Ladd, seconded by Chairman Rage, to appoint Maureen Buckley as Vice Chairman of the Hampton Beach Village District for the coming year.

Vote: 2 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Buckley). Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Ladd, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to approve the Minutes of March 11, 2015.

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ladd, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to approve the Minutes of March 25, 2015.

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ladd, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to approve the Minutes of March 27, 2015 (Annual Meeting).

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Kathy Silva, Blue Ocean Discovery Center, thanked the voters of the Village District for their continued support.

Ms. Silva said there will be an Earth Day cleanup on Saturday, April 18th, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. They will also be going to Winnacunnet High School to participate in a large Girl Scout meeting. Blue Ocean will open on Memorial Day weekend from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They will continue to be open weekends in June and beginning June 20th they will be open every day.

Ms. Silva said they continue to do their daily beach cleanup and record everything that is picked up. They are still looking for volunteers and also for a sponsor. They are also in need of donated parking spaces for volunteers.

Charlie Preston said he had a concern with DRED's operation of parking meters. This is making a lot of people unhappy. Mr. Preston showed how much revenue is obtained from parking tickets and how it could even surpass regular revenue. Mr. Preston asked for support for weekday free parking for all veteran and state park plates on any school day of the local school system and for meter enforcement on weekends only after the Seafood Festival until May 1st.

Chairman Rage said the State has done a lot of work at the beach and he personally believes they should be able to collect their parking revenue.

Closing Comments

There were no closing comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary